

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings replaces the original Fig. 2. The original Fig. 2 belongs to a related application that was filed at the same time as the present application. The figures for both applications were prepared at the same time by the same draftsman and these figures are similar in appearance. The wrong Fig. 2 was inadvertently filed with the present application.

Applicants submit that the replacement Fig. 2 does not constitute new matter as each element of the figure is described in detail in the specification commencing at page 14.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the above identified application in light of the Office Action dated December 2, 2004. Claims 1-38 remain presented for examination. Claims 1, 16, 20, 29-31, 36 and 37 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record, and in particular to overcome the formal rejection.

Claims 1, 16 and 31 are the only independent claims.

Claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent 6,578,035 (Barker). Claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Rejections of Claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. In particular, Applicants have amended each independent claim to include the feature that, when a request for a particular session data occurs, a contemporaneous test takes place to see if that session has timed out (Support for this feature is found in the specification at page 15, lines 1-21). However, any time outs so detected do not result in invalidating of session data. Rather, invalidation occurs at a particular time that is independent of when this contemporaneous testing occurs. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections of Claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The present invention as defined by independent claim 1 relates to a method for maintaining http session data in a server system serving a network, the system including at least one network server. The method comprises storing in a database session data for a plurality of sessions serviced by the server. The method further comprises performing time out testing of

session data as a request for that particular session occurs. Even if a time out has been detected by this test, the session data remains valid in the database. The method further comprises invalidating the session data at a particular time that is independent of when the contemporaneous testing is performed.

As described in the specification (inter alia, page 8, lines 9-19), the above described method frees the system from performing invalidation procedures in real time. System resources are thus conserved at potential times of high volume access to session data. Invalidation of appropriate session data can be scheduled to occur when demands on the system are low (e.g., claim 12).

Applicants' discussion of the prior art fails to teach this feature of claim 1 wherein a time out is detected in response to a server request of particular session data and invalidation of this data is not performed. In Paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that "AAPA does not explicitly teach allowing session data to remain valid in said database even after the corresponding session has time[d] out" and references a passage of Barker as teaching this feature. The cited passage is a portion of Claim 1 and reads as follows:

checking a plurality of synchronization properties of the database with other databases in the system to validate that the instance of the database is time specific;

Applicants fail to see how this particular cited passage of Barker relates to this claimed feature of the present invention and respectfully ask if a different passage of Barker was intended.

Further, as understood by Applicants, Barker relates to a distributed database wherein a method is employed for "ensuring an [sic] current and valid copy of a distributed database is re-installed from a file server that has failed and been restored or otherwise ... brought [back] online" (Abstract). Barker specifically recites that his invention solves the problem of restoring a database by "validating the DS database each time the database is opened" (col. 2, lines 2-4). In this validation process, many criteria are discussed (col. 2, lines 4-19). While Barker does refer to a database that is "old", his invention teaches that a more suitable database is produced if possible. If not possible, a successor data base is prepared (col. 4, lines 19-28). Applicants submit that Barker fails to teach or suggest the claimed feature of the present invention wherein session data remains valid in a database even after a test indicates that the session has timed out.

Applicants submit that neither AAPA nor Barker, either singly or in combination teach or suggest the features of claim 1. In particular, neither of these references teaches or suggests the feature that, when contemporaneous testing of session data determines it to have timed out, the session data remains valid in the database and that actual invalidation of session data is performed at a time that is independent of the contemporaneous tests. Accordingly, claim 1 is deemed patentable over the combination of AAPA and Barker.

Independent claims 16 and 31 contain these same features and are deemed patentable for the same reasons.

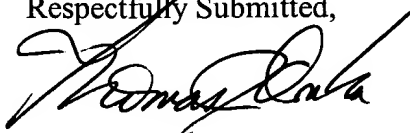
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Claims 1, 16 and 31 are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested. Further, Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the fact that the rejection of claims 12, 26 and 35 contained in paragraph 21 of the Office Action references a section of the specification as AAPA that actually is a discussion of the invention. Particularly, it is the Applicants' discussion of objects of the present invention, and not Applicants' discussion of the prior art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Onka", written in a cursive style.

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